

CBS EVENING NEWS
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CENTRAL AMERICA RATHER: The reported CIA-directed mining of Nicaraguan
/U.S. AID harbors and Congressional reaction are the subject of Bill
Moyer's commentary tonight. Bill?

MOYERS: Dan, that was a pretty hollow thing the senators did yesterday, passing a resolution with no teeth to it. They could have stopped the CIA's war with Nicaragua with a binding vote, but that might make them sitting ducks in November when Ronald Reagan tries to prove who's the toughest hombre on the block. So the Senate's playing it both ways, providing the money and then huffing at the administration for using it. Of course, the Reagan people have tried to get the money by attaching the request to a bill providing funds to help poor people in this country

pay for home heating. They also coupled assistance to El Salvador to relief for the hungry of Africa. They wanted to force senators who oppose intervention in Central America to vote against poor and starving people elsewhere. The spectacle's indicative of our confusion towards these dirty little wars. We don't really have the stomach for them and with good reason. Thirty years ago, in the midst of fresh Cold War tensions, the White House asked a group of prominent Americans to prepare a report on the future of the CIA. They concluded, and I quote, 'That long-standing American concept of fair play must be reconsidered. We must learn to subvert; sabotage and destroy our enemies by more clever, more sophisticated and more effective methods than those used against us,' end quote. Over the years government invoked this secret charter to lie to the American people, to violate U.S. and international law, to plot the assassination of foreign leaders, to enlist members of organized crime in official intrigue, to wage war on the economy of other countries and to funnel money and arms to corrupt regimes that use them to enrich a favored few while showing contemptuous disregard for the rights of common people. What we got for all this was dubious; what we've lost is obvious. No longer can we so easily bear witness as a nation to the standards of international law. When the Soviet delegate to the United Nation says that the mining of Nicaraguan harbors is a new chapter of international terrorism, he has to keep his hands in his pockets to hide the stains of hypocrisy. I think that behind the confusion in Washington these days is knowledge that our own hands aren't so clean either.